

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-5, 9-15 and 41-48 remain pending in this application. Claims 2, 6-8 and 16-40 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 46-48 have been added.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and safe receipt of the priority document.

Information Disclosure Statement

PTO-1449 Forms filed with the Information Disclosure Statement on February 24, 2006 have not been acknowledged by the Examiner in the Office Action dated March 3, 2006. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449 Forms to indicate that these documents have been considered.

Claim Objections

Claim 42 has been amended to address the Examiner's concern. No new matter has been added. Claim 43 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

With respect to the third storage system transmitting a read request to the first storage system in claim 41, the Examiner's attention is directed to numeral 1610 in Fig. 16, step 1700 in Fig. 17 and paragraph [0178] of corresponding U.S. Published Application 2005/0055523, for example.

35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 43 has been amended to address the Examiner's concerns. No new matter has been added. The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone for further clarification.

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-5, 12-13, 15, and 41-45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for the reasons set forth in the Office Action. While Applicants strongly maintain that all of the previously pending claims are patentable over the art of record, in order to expedite issuance of subject matter indicated as being allowable, the application is being placed in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if any further minor amendments are needed in order to expedite prosecution.

Appl. No. 10/784,356
Amendment dated March 31, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 3, 2006

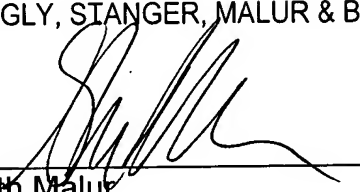
ASA-5053

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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